

7. *Reduction in the rate of school fees.*

Deputy President.—Last one. Mr. Ambooken, there is a resolution standing in your name.

Mr. I. E. Ambooken.—Sir, I beg to move that “this Council recommends to the Government that, owing to the financial incapability of the public, a substantial reduction is to be made in the rate of school-fees at least in the Primary and Lower Secondary departments of schools.”

Sir, that the general progress of a country mainly depends upon the facilities given to the people for education is a practical truth. Without education no one is able to do his duties properly nor satisfactorily. It was in the time of the Diwan, Sir A. R. Banerji, that the first *Education Code* was introduced, and according to it fees in Malayalam Primary schools was abolished, and as a result of the same, substantial progress has been made, although additional helps have to be rendered to the back-ward and depressed classes. Now, it is believed that the time has come for a further encouragement to be made for education, by making Lower Secondary education also free, since several other countries have done so. But we have to understand here, that the privilege of full education that we have given in the Primary department is not allowed in all kinds of schools, as in Anglo-Vernacular schools fees are collected in all classes including the Primary department. I do not understand the reason why such an impediment is put in the way of English education, when a rudimentary knowledge of English has become an absolute necessity even to the poor working classes. The mere fact that the knowledge of English is required even for peons, *masāpadies* or other menial servants for the proper conduct of their duties, is a clear proof for my statement. I do not deny the fact that Malayalam, which is our mother-tongue, is to be more encouraged than English. But that is not the reason for not giving just necessary encouragement for a sufficient knowledge of English to all classes of people. It is my firm belief that an average man of our country will surely find it very difficult to educate his children when the rates of school fees are according to the rates as at present. The resolution that has been brought by me here is only to make a reduction in the rates of school fees, since I know that a total abolition of the same may be impossible for the financial stability of our Government, although we have got a surplus of nearly 50 lakhs. The main object of my resolution is to help the poor people for their education and thereby improve the general welfare and progress of our State. Therefore I request all the Members of this House to support this resolution.

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—I second it.

Deputy President.—What have you to say?